

NNNNX
 U H ECA95EMJCT13
 RR RUMHR
 DE RUSLX #6365 2341105
 ZNY CCCCC ZZH
 R 000940Z AUG 79
 FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5336
 INFO RUMJPC/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 694
 RUSBAE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 7288
 RUSSD/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 9199
 RUDIC/AMEMBASSY LONDON 1767
 RUEKMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1845
 RUFNPS/AMEMBASSY PARIS 3229
 RUMHR/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 416
 RUHGHGA/CINCPAC
 RUHINA/USMISSION USNATO 39
 BT
 C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 6385

CM 926

POL
 CMG
 CHRON
 ECON
 RF

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12858: GDS 3/21/85 (JAMES E. TAYLOR) OR-
 TAGS: PINT, AF, PROP
 SUBJ: (CLOU) CONTRARY TO DRA PROPAGANDA, "MASSIVE MARCHES"
 NOT TAKING PLACE IN KABUL

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT).

2. SUMMARY: DESPITE RECENT DRA PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN, "MASSIVE MARCHES AND DEMONSTRATIONS" IN SUPPORT OF THE REGIME ARE NOT TAKING PLACE IN KABUL, NOR WE PRESUME ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY. MEETINGS WITHIN GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES HAS BECOME ONE FAVORITE WAY FOR THE LEADERSHIP TO PRESENT ITS LINE. THE CESSATION OF PREVIOUSLY COMMON MARCHES WAS PROBABLY THE RESULT OF GROWING NERVOUSNESS THAT GROUPS ON THE CAPITAL'S STREETS COULD GET OUT OF CONTROL. END OF SUMMARY.

3. ONE RECENT THEME OF THE KHALQI GOVERNMENT'S PROPAGANDA MACHINERY HAS BEEN THAT "MASSIVE MARCHES AND DEMONSTRATIONS" ARE TAKING PLACE THROUGHOUT AFGHANISTAN IN SUPPORT OF THE REGIME'S STRUGGLE AGAINST "ENEMIES OF THE COUNTRY," PARTICULARLY PAKISTAN AND IRAN. THESE STORIES GENERALLY INCLUDE LONG LISTS OF THE CITIES, TOWNS, OR VILLAGES WHERE MARCHES AND DEMONSTRATIONS ARE ALLEGED TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE.

4. IN KABUL, THE POLITICAL HEART OF THE COUNTRY, IF ANY SUCH MARCH OR DEMONSTRATION HAS ACTUALLY TAKEN PLACE, IT MUST HAVE BEEN A VERY PRIVATE AFFAIR, SINCE WE HAVE NOT SEEN ANY PUBLIC GATHERING OF A POLITICAL NATURE FOR WEEKS, AND CERTAINLY NONE SINCE BEFORE THE JUNE 23 VIOLENT OUTBREAK IN THE OLD PART OF KABUL. BEFORE THAT EXPLOSION, "SPONTANEOUS" MARCHES OF LETHARGIC AND DRAGOONED VILLAGERS AND BUREAUCRATS LED BY THE PARTY FAITHFUL HAD BEEN A FAIRLY COMMON OCCURRENCE. BUT OVER THE PAST TWO MONTHS, THIS PROPAGANDA DEVICE HAS BEEN SET ASIDE, PROBABLY BECAUSE THE REGIME HAS BECOME MORE NERVOUS ABOUT PERMITTING GROUPS OF EVEN BORED DEMONSTRATORS CONGREGATE NEAR SENSITIVE LOCATIONS IN THE CAPITAL. ALTHOUGH TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON US PREVENT AUTHORITATIVE COMMENT ON THE SITUATION IN THE OTHER MAJOR CITIES OR IN THE VILLAGES, WE SUSPECT THAT SUCH EVENTS ARE NOW RARE THERE AS WELL.

5. WE DO KNOW, HOWEVER, THAT THE REGIME IS PRESENTING ITS PROPAGANDA LINE WITHIN THE BUREAUCRACY VIA REGULAR MEETINGS OF VARIOUS MINISTRIES' EMPLOYEES WHO ARE "EDUCATED" BY AN AUTHORIZED PARTY REPRESENTATIVE. THE OVERALL IMPACT OF THESE MEETINGS IS UNKNOWN, BUT THEY DO KEEP PEOPLE OFF THE STREETS, WHICH APPARENTLY IS THE REGIME'S PRIMARY GOAL AT THIS POINT.

AMSTUTZ